

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Re: Application of: Kevin Francis ALBERT et al.
Serial No.: 09/534,466
Filed: 03/24/2000
For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING
WEB TENSION
Art Unit: 2854
Examiner: Ren Luo YAN
Confirmation No.: 3314

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November 18, 2004

APPELLANTS' REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.193(b)

Sir:

Appellants submit this reply brief for the consideration of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (the "Board") in the appeal of the Final Rejection dated August 27, 2003 in this application.

Appellants respectfully request consideration of this reply brief addressing the Examiner's Answer, as well as the original Appellants' Brief.

Group I

Claim 1 recites a method for controlling tension in a web of a printing press, the printing press including an infeed, printing units and a folder, the method comprising the steps of:

increasing an infeed tension in the web between the infeed and the printing units in response to a signal indicating a change to a printing mode from a white web mode;
and

decreasing the infeed tension in the web in response to a further signal indicating a change from the printing mode to the white web mode.

The Examiner's Answer states at page 7 in section 11(a) that Jurkewitz teaches that the signal indicating a change to a printing mode from a white web mode is the web run up to operating speed from S0 to S1. It is assumed perhaps that this means to S2, as the operating speed is S2 and there is no tension change between S0 and S1. At page 3, the Examiner's Answer seems to indicate that the "mode change" is indicated when the printing press speed goes beyond S1.

The Examiner's Answer misunderstands the pressure P in Jurkewitz- it is the pressure which is provided to the web via pneumatic cylinder 20 (See col. 4, line 16 to col. 4, line 65) for example. The web, as would be clear to one of skill in the art, can be printed between S0 and S1 with the cylinder 20 providing a pressure P1. Moreover it seems clear the web is being printed during this time, as the value for S1 is indicated in number of copies per hour, so that printing clearly is occurring at S1. There is nothing to teach or suggest that the web is not being printed at S1. The Examiner's answer asserts that the web is not being printed at S1 and that a mode change occurs "beyond S1." In fact, the pressure P provided by the pneumatic cylinder is completely consistent with printing occurring from S0 to S2 and no mode change is indicated. If a mode change were to have occurred, the pressure change would be instantaneous, as the instant a printing cylinder contacts the web, the pressure changes dramatically (See prior art Fig. 1 in the present application).

In addition, the increasing of the web tension in Jurkewitz is what the Examiner says indicates the mode change, and thus maps the signal P in Jurkewitz. The increasing of the web tension cannot be "**in response** to a signal indicating a change in printing mode from a white web mode", as the increasing of the web tension is asserted by the Examiner's Answer **is** the signal.

In the present invention, the signal can come for example from external controller 60, for example when the operator moves the blankets to impression on.

With respect to Huth, there is absolutely no teaching or disclosure in Huth of increasing or decreasing an infeed tension in response to a signal indicating a change from a printing mode to a white web mode as recited in claim 1, nor has the Examiner's

Answer identified any section of Huth showing these claimed limitations. There is absolutely no indication or teaching that the tension is any different whether the web is printing or in a white web mode. Huth is merely similar to the prior art Fig. 1 described in the present invention.

GROUP II: Claims 2 and 5

Claim 2 recites that the infeed tension is increased so that a substantially similar tension is maintained in the web after the printing units during the change from the printing mode to the white web mode. Claim 5 has a similar limitation.

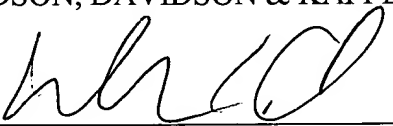
Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jurkewitz et al, and claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Jurkewitz et al.

Jurkewitz does not show or disclose maintaining a similar tension in the web after the printing units during the change from the printing mode to the white web mode, as claimed in claim 2. In fact the web tension is increased in Jurkewitz as admitted in the Examiner's Answer.

Withdrawal of the rejections with respect to claims 2 and 5 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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